

REMARKS:

Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 and 9 are rejected. Claims 5 and 8 have been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner. Instead, however, Applicants amend claim 1, and incorporate claim 5 into claim 1. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The elements of dependent claim 8 have been incorporated into dependent claim 2 by virtue of the incorporation of substantially similar elements of claim 5 into independent claim 1, from which claim 2 depends. Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 2 has also been amended to place into more proper form.

Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US. Patent No. 6,069,484 to Sobelewski et al. ("Sobelewski") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,716,361 to Sheffer. Applicants amend independent claim 1 and respectfully assert that they have overcome the rejection of the Office Action.

Claim 1 is directed to a capacitance measurement system having a test head. Claim 1 as presently amended recites "**an external controller that is connected to said test head and controls a test head controller.**"

Sobelewski is directed to a bi-directional current scaling preamplifier that is inserted between a device under test and a source measure unit or a source measure unit and switching matrix combination. (Abstract).

Sheffer is directed to an apparatus for performing ratiometric capacitance measurements by comparing the output of a digital-to-analog converter with the voltage at a tap between an unknown capacitance and a first inherent capacitance of the apparatus. A common input voltage is supplied to both the series circuit, including the first inherent and unknown capacitances, and to the digital-to-analog converter which accomplishes attenuation of the input voltage in response to a digital value. (Abstract).

The Examiner states that neither Sobelewski nor Sheffer, either singularly nor in combination, teach or suggest the use of an external controller in conjunction with an

internal test controller in the field of capacitive measurement. Applicants agree with Examiner that the prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest claim 1 as amended.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that neither Sobelewski nor Sheffer, expressly or inherently, describe all of the elements set forth in claim 1, and thus neither Sobelewski nor Sheffer, either singularly or in combination, do not anticipate amended claim 1 or render amended claim 1 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

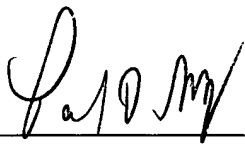
Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9 have been variously rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sobelewski in view of Sheffer, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,917,331 to Persons ("Persons"), U.S. Patent No. 4,772,844 to Andeen et al. ("Andeen"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,093,627 to Kitayoshi ("Kitayoshi"). However, Applicants contend that claim 1 as amended is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9 depend from amended claim 1. By virtue of this dependency, Applicants contend that claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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